

OXC - 3136
Copy 4 of 6

5 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Development Branch, DFD-DD/P
SUBJECT : Trip Report

1. The undersigned visited El Centro, California, on 1 and 2 March to discuss and observe tests of the OXCART parachute system. Discussion was with [redacted] project officer, and Lt. [redacted] Commander of the team group at the test facility.

2. The first live jumps with the new chute were observed. They were made from a C-130 aircraft flying at 130 knots at 6,000 feet altitude. Three persons jumped with the OXCART system, free-fall, successfully, with [redacted] making the initial jump. There were two adverse items noted: first, the survival kit failed to release properly at 800 feet on [redacted] jump; and second, a buckle on the top rear of the pack gave a hard blow to the helmeted head of the third jumper when the chute opened. The first stage chute was in place on top of the pack when the jumps were made but was not scheduled to and did not open due to the low initial altitude. Aside from the two minor items noted the performance of the system was satisfactory.

3. Discussions with [redacted] were on generalized support items. He has given excellent support to the project despite a shortage of directive type authorization. Discussions with [redacted] were on technical problems in chute development. The only major problem left at this time is the first stage chute failure to operate successfully. Further attempts at fixes will be scheduled for test as soon as planned modifications are completed. The description of the proposed solid cord and the proposed employment of [redacted] as an adviser were also discussed with [redacted]. He feels that at the advanced stage of development of the first stage chute the employment of an outside adviser may not be justifiable. He feels the persons presently engaged in development of the system should be given an opportunity to obtain a satisfactory device, and if unsuccessful, to get assistance from recognized authorities, of their choice, in the industry. One name mentioned was that of [redacted]

OXC-3179

Copy 9 of

13 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Status of Parachute Program

Call to [] 12 March 1962

Work on Program - Week of 5-9 March

Main Chute:

3 live jumps made from 6000' (makes 6 total)
3 more as soon as possible from 6000'
8 live jumps to be made from 15,800'

Last Week - 1st Stage:

4 dummy drops were made from 45,000' (makes 40 total) - Excessive rpm and 1st stage chute collapse were experienced. These drops were made with modified 1st stage chutes. [] feels that the 60" chute may be too small, that there is apparently no quick fix. May need to go to 78" chute; if so, will need around 25 more drops.

Future:

[] are scheduled to visit [] on Wednesday, 14 March, to review program and associated problems. [] is also planning to complete the three live jumps from 6000' and the eight live jumps from 15,800' prior to returning to this Area for visit.

Added:

Four of the 6 live jumps from 6000' have had survival kit hang-up. Buckle trouble has been eliminated by re-routing.

[]
LT. COLONEL USAF

080-3136
Page 2

[redacted], probably the outstanding authority on parachutes in this country. I have known [redacted] for several years and agree that if outside assistance is required, he would be the most logical source. However, there is a good possibility that no outside assistance will be required. In any event, I concur with [redacted] views.

[redacted]
Lt. Colonel USAF

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